

100

Years of the Lenten Preaching Series at Calvary



BE SURE
ATTEND
1957
NOON DAY
LENTEN SERVICES
CALVARY
CHURCH
SECOND ST.
AT ADAMS
MONDAY
THROUGH
FRIDAY
12:05 - 12:35





CALVARY
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**making God's love visible
in downtown Memphis**

**PARISH OFFICES ARE OPEN WEEKDAYS 8:30 A.M.-4:00 P.M.
SUNDAY WORSHIP**

8 a.m. Rite I Holy Eucharist
10:30 a.m. Rite II Holy Eucharist
5 p.m. Evensong first Sundays, Sept.-May

E-mail clergy and staff with initial of first name
followed by full last name@calvarymemphis.org
Example: swalters@calvarymemphis.org

CLERGY

The Rt. Rev. Phoebe Roaf
Bishop, Diocese of West TN

The Rev. Paul McLain
Associate Rector

The Rev. Audrey Gonzalez
Assisting Priest

The Rev. Scott Walters
Rector

The Rev. Katherine Bush
Associate Rector

The Ven. Mimsy Jones
Deacon

The Rev. Buddy Stallings
Assisting Priest

VESTRY

Zachary R. Ferguson
Sr. Warden

Cathy Awsumb

Len Grice

Ben Boeving
Jr. Warden

Franklin Barton

Chloie Madden *

Madge Deacon
Clerk

David Cocke

Jerry Scruggs

Erik Ball
Treasurer

Kate Connell

Brennan Seltzer *

Shannon Tucker
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Intersecting Stories



by the Rev. Scott Walters, Rector

One preacher in the incredible lineup we have coming to Calvary's 100th Lenten Preaching Series is an Irish poet and theologian named Pádraig Ó Tuama. Years ago, Pádraig was doing youth work with a friend named Paul, who was asked to give a talk about friendship to a group of schoolchildren, "all energy and kicking heels against plastic chairs."

Paul was truthful and transparent, probably to a fault. So, when he began to talk, he told the children that he was lonely, even though he had lots of friends. Paul said he missed his wife. "He cried. The children listened. He did that thing where you try to stop sobbing by gulping down air. Everything was quiet. It was awkward and truthful and both inappropriate and appropriate," Pádraig writes.

Then, of course, someone swooped in, started a song or a game, and got things back on the happy track while Paul busied himself in a corner, tidying things up. But the next day, Paul told Pádraig that "the least controllable of all the children—the child we complained about after every event—came up to him in the very tidy corner, held his hand, and said: 'I cry when I'm sad too.'"

Now, if it were a sermon, the exchange between Paul and that kind and ornery little boy would indicate a failure on the preacher's part. If the congregation feels like they need to take care of the preacher, the preacher has gotten too much in the way. But I also think that, whatever a sermon is, it's more than an explanation. There has to be a moment in which preacher and listener look in on a holy text and say, "I think I know what they mean, don't you? I've felt like that, or I've failed like that." Maybe it's a moment in which listener and preacher simply feel less alone in the world because they've just heard from someone else who once was lonely too.

The sacred power in exploring our Christian scriptures in community arrives in moments of connection and

empathy with people whose lives look wildly different from mine. Ex-slaves wandering in the wilderness, queens and kings in ornate palaces, prophets shouting about injustice amidst the rubble of a torn-down temple. It's finding a life-changing connection across these differences that, so often, has sent the truths of scripture deeper down into my life where the healing really needs to happen.

2023 brings one of the most diverse and powerful collections of voices into Calvary's pulpit in a century of Lenten Preaching. Kaitlin Curtice is a Christian author, storyteller, and a citizen of the Potawatomi Nation. Barbara Brown Taylor is probably the preacher whose craft more Christian preachers have studied than any other in recent decades. The preacher Barbara most hoped to be in dialogue with at Calvary was a rabbi named David Wolpe, whom Micah Greenstein recommended as the best Jewish preacher in America. We obliged Barbara's wish, by the way. Jemar Tisby identifies as a Black evangelical in the Reformed tradition, and Father Greg Boyle is a Jesuit priest who lives and works with gang members in LA. Dalia Mogahed is a Muslim scholar who opened her 2016 TED Talk, viewed more than 8 million times so far, with the question, "What do you think when you look at me?" Historian Jon Meacham and our beloved Dan Matthews will preach, as will barefoot favorite Becca Stevens of Thistle Farms. Read about the rest of this year's preachers and mark your calendar right away.

But for all their rich diversity, I believe God will use Calvary's pulpit to change and challenge our lives in the way God has from the beginning. We'll be changed when we find our own story intersecting with the story of someone else's. Perhaps someone whose experiences of this world have been vastly different from ours. And when that happens, some small but significant corner of this world that is so fractured and divided by sin and brokenness will be made, by God's grace, just a little more whole.

Finding a Home

by Bill Bangham

When we moved to Memphis from Richmond, Va., 18 months ago, I wasn't sure I would ever darken the door of a church again. I was fresh off a 35-year career working for large, evangelical organizations. They and I had gone through a sea change. I was battered and bruised as I began to question decisions and values of those organizations. My status began to change. At first, it was subtle. In the latter years, it became a particularly steep slide. I went from being respected and valued to somewhat suspect and tolerated, and eventually discarded.

A parallel change occurred in my local church. The only thing that kept us there was a ministry to at-risk teenagers, to which I was deeply committed. Other than that, I was done.

I experienced something similar during my college years. I saw little relevance in church for different reasons, eventually pitching it for a number of years. Yet a Black fraternity brother would often say to me: "Your problem isn't with Mr. Jesus; it's with the institution." It was true then and recalling them decades later, I had to concede these words were true again.

Dianne and I didn't make much pretense at looking for a place of worship after we moved. Covid was still an issue. We were content staying at home, only exposing ourselves to a limited number of people. I did rummage through the internet, looking at how downtown churches were investing themselves in the community — Calvary's efforts particularly were impressive — but it didn't go beyond that. Once we had our second booster, we began venturing out a bit. One of the first places we went was the downtown farmer's market. It was there that we met Alex & Carrington Wise.

I was wearing a Richmond t-shirt. Alex quickly said: "I'm from Richmond," and we began talking about people and places we knew in common. Their booth became a regular stop for us. Whit Deacon was often there and always had a treat for our dog, Emma. One Saturday, Alex mentioned something about church, and I asked where he attended. He responded: "Calvary Episcopal. Why don't you come?"



Bill Bangham is a retired photojournalist, magazine editor and writer. He is currently working on personal projects and occasionally teaching.

We initially stumbled through the liturgy. Yet I found a great deal of comfort in it. Over the succeeding Sundays, I found the sermons by our three priests compelling. They had something to say. They said it well. Their words were relevant and left me with something to think about. The music was sublime — I was an insufferable classical music snob as a teenager — and I loved the organ. We gradually began collecting acquaintances, and those relationships began to become deeper. One Sunday, Carrington told Alex I was a ripe candidate for Baguette Brothers, and I began attending, collecting more acquaintances. I felt a sense that one didn't need to be "fixed" — whatever that means — to belong here.

Dianne and I joined Calvary and began attending Confirmation classes. More and deeper relationships began there. In December, when Bishop Phoebe laid hands on us, we had a sense of really belonging. The following Thursday, one of the Baguette Brothers asked how it felt to truly be a member. I wasn't sure what to say. My feelings were too complex for me to quickly sort into a succinct answer. I mumbled something that probably didn't mean any more to them than it did to me. But I've since thought about it a lot.

I've found a home.

Opening Wide the Doors of Calvary

by Steve Miller

Last year, I served as a greeter for the Lenten Preaching Series and Waffle Shop. My post was often at the door that opens out into Calvary's parking lot; this door sees much action during Lent. Rain or shine, with shuttle bus riders or people walking in, it's constantly opening and closing. It might not seem like a lot to open the same door over and over, but when asked to write about it, I can say there was definitely more to it for me than arm exercise.

I started to look back at my mindset at the time and remember asking the question (courtesy of MLK), "What are you doing for others?" I also wondered what I could do to positively impact people's lives. My directive was: Let me be of service to others, which really means to live with the spirit of service. To serve doesn't mean to be a servant of someone. To serve doesn't mean to bow down and say, "Whatever your order, let me deliver it."

Through greeting, I can employ empathetic listening, look my fellow human in the eyes, and offer a hand, and a warm greeting, because to serve really means to leave people happier than when you found them. In general, people report that what they most want is to be seen and treated with respect.

With Calvary ready to engage in the 100th running of the Lenten Preaching Series and Waffle Shop, I wonder, how has our community pulled this off for 100 years?

Yummy waffles? Yes.

Delicious fish pudding? Yes, yes.

Inspiring speakers? Yes, yes, yes.



LPS and Waffle Shop Greeter,
Steve Miller

But most importantly, this community at Calvary embodies love as a verb instead of a noun. Love is action. That action is to love God, love your neighbor, and love yourself. Being a greeter at the Waffle Shop and Lenten Preaching Series has made me a more faithful servant to God, my neighbor, and myself. So I will be back for a second helping this year.

See you there? Yes!

Finding Community

Ringling Bells

by Nina Grice

When Len and I first married, we lived in Tupelo. We attended the First Presbyterian Church there, and I was enthralled by their handbell choir. So much so that I decided to give it a go! I don't read music, but I was told, "If you know your left hand from your right, and if you can count to 4, you can ring handbells!" So, I learned to play the handbells. I made some wonderful friends and memories there. I particularly enjoyed playing in the Christmas parade, playing "The Lullaby of Broadway" at a church event, and playing "Were You There" on Good Friday in a dark church just before we all left in silence.

Fast forward about 10 years, and we moved back to Memphis. I was thrilled to discover Calvary had a handbell choir! I jumped in with both feet (and hands)! Once again, I have found myself with a wonderful group of individuals with varying levels of musical talents, abilities to read music, and folks with a ton of patience for those of us who are less musically inclined. Each practice session has a music lesson included, whether intended or not. So, even this old dog continues to learn new tricks! I enjoy stretching my comfort zone and feel such a sense of accomplishment when I can master a new task.

On one occasion, we played for a retirement community. An accomplished musician in attendance had several questions about the handbells. He guffawed when he was told each person was responsible for (usually) 2 notes. We were quite embarrassed, but Karla Philipp (our leader at the time) explained that even though we only had a couple of notes (add more if you have to play sharps or flats), the group has to be completely in sync with one another. We all rely on the person next to us to play their notes at the proper time so that we can "chime in" at our appointed time. Once he understood that, he understood there is a lot more to handbells than meets the eye.

We are a fun group. We support one another, pray for one another, and laugh as much as we possibly can. We may not always be perfect, but we hope you enjoy our music, and we DO always make a joyful noise!



Leslie Smith, Andrea Johnson, Nina Grice, and Catie Thacker rehearsing as a part of Calvary's liturgical five-octave handbell choir, the Calvary Ringers.

LIFE AT CALVARY

SUNDAYS

Community Breakfast Blessing/ Basement Church

Year-round, Calvary volunteers prepare and serve a hot breakfast to approximately 200 neighbors experiencing homelessness in our community. A member of our clergy team leads everyone in prayer before breakfast. Volunteers are always welcome.

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I

This service features more traditional "Elizabethan" language in a contemplative and intimate setting. This service ends before 8:45 a.m. and many of the early morning worshipers gather for the parish breakfast which follows in the Mural Room.

9:15 a.m. Formation for all ages

Faith formation classes are offered for adults, children, and youth on Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m.

The Rev. Katherine Bush seeks to nurture the faith and spiritual growth of the Calvary community through inspirational and challenging formation offerings for adults. She plans classes for adults on both Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings at Calvary. Classes are led by clergy, lay volunteers, and guest speakers from local colleges, seminaries, churches, synagogues, and non-profit organizations.

Sunday morning classes for children use Godly Play as its foundation, while youth focus on learning to interact as a community of faith and learning how faith shapes their daily lives.

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Children's Chapel

The 10:30 a.m. Eucharist with Children's Chapel attracts a widely varied congregation of all ages, including a strong contingent of young families. Music is led by the semiprofessional Calvary Choir with participation from our Boys and Girls Choir, St. Cecilia Choir (second grade and younger), and the Calvary Ringers handbell choir. We also livestream this service each Sunday. Watch the livestream on Calvary's Facebook page, YouTube channel, or on our website.

5:00 p.m. Evensong

Every first Sunday of the month, Sept.-May, join us for a traditional Anglican choral liturgy in Calvary's beautiful nave at twilight. Following the [Book of Common Prayer](#) service outline, Evensong gives weekend travelers an opportunity to worship or, having been to a morning service, it offers a time of prayer and quiet reflection as evening falls. "Choral Evensong is a 45-minute long peace-inducing church service in which the 'song' of voices sounding together in harmony is heard at the 'even' point between the active day and restful night, allowing listeners time for restful contemplation—church members, agnostics and atheists alike." (from [choralevensong.org](#)). This service also is livestreamed on Calvary's Facebook page, YouTube channel, and on our website.

WEDNESDAYS

12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist with Prayers for Healing

Join us in the church on Wednesdays at 12 p.m. for a short service of Holy Eucharist with prayers for healing. Doors on 2nd Street open at 11:45 a.m.

5:15-7:15 p.m. Dinner, Formation, and Choir Rehearsals

Calvary's Wednesday evening program of dinner, worship, classes, and choir rehearsals is offered during the fall, winter, and spring.

7:00 p.m. Compline

Join us for Compline every Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. in the church. Compline is led by Calvary youth and all are welcome to attend.

The Tradition of Calvary's Waffle Shop Lives on in 2023!

by Laurie Monypeny

For those of us who have grown up at Calvary, the Lenten tradition of Waffle Shop is a very special time of year. Our history notes that the women of Calvary started the Waffle Shop ministry in 1928 as a way to serve lunch to downtown workers who attended noonday services during Lent and as a way to support outreach projects throughout our city with the proceeds from these lunches. Since 1933, this ministry has been in its permanent home in the basement of our church. Though history is important, what most of us knew in our hearts as we were growing up was that we were very proud of this tradition and could not wait to join as waitresses or other Waffle Shop helpers. We worked the Waffle Shop with our mothers during our spring breaks; we worked the Waffle Shop when home from college; and as adults, we were excited to join the guild women to work as often as possible—even with young families, jobs, etc. In fact, no one ever thought of NOT participating in Waffle Shop during Lent.

Over the years, as the world changed, the Waffle Shop experienced changes as well. Other churches were asked to join us to help serve as waitresses; many more men became active in the many jobs of Waffle Shop, and workers were hired to fill in any gaps. The one thing that has not changed over all this time is our “Mural Room Ministry”—the joining of so many people who either come together to work in the Waffle Shop or those who come together to enjoy fellowship around our tables while eating the best food in town.

The love and care that goes into our familiar “offerings” will be the same as in years past. We hope you will come often—whether to volunteer your time or just enjoy a delightful lunch. We look forward to seeing you!

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the Waffle Shop committee.



Laurie Monypeny,
Dessert Room Coordinator

Waffle Shop Committee:

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THE WAFFLE SHOP

February 23-March 31, 2023

WEDNESDAYS: 11 A.M.-1:30 P.M. and 6:15- 7:15 P.M

THURSDAYS AND FRIDAYS: 11 A.M. - 1:30 P.M..

Download the entire menu at calvarymemphis.org/waffleshop.

It’s been 95 years since plates were piled up with waffles, chicken hash, and fish pudding at Calvary’s first Waffle Shop in Lent of 1928. For all that’s changed in our world since then, Memphians still stream to Calvary each year for these three dishes, as well as more “recent” additions such as shrimp mousse, tomato aspic, and Tennessee bourbon pie. Why some of these might not have been on the menu, even as long as you’ve been alive! But Waffle Shop has become the ultimate annual comfort food for many, so we are pleased to let you know that it will be up and running again in 2023!

Dining will be offered in person in the Mural Room on a first-come, first-served basis. Groups of 10+ can make reservations in advance by calling 901-525-6602. To-go meals will be offered.

Wednesday evenings will offer a community dining experience with a different soup, salad, and cookie each week. This meal will support our outreach ministries at Calvary. Dinner will be offered from 5:15-6:15 p.m. and the live podcast recording with LPS speakers will begin at 6:15 in the Great Hall. Visit calvarymemphis.org/lent-after-dark for the full lineup of speakers.

Daily Specials

WEDNESDAY

Seafood Gumbo Bowl	\$11
Turnip Greens, Pork Belly & Cornbread	\$10
Spaghetti & Rye Bread	\$8
Strawberry Schaum Torte	\$6
Peanut Butter Pie	\$6

THURSDAY

Corned Beef & Cabbage	\$11
Spring Vegetable Soup & Cornbread	\$7
Spaghetti & Rye Bread	\$8
Tennessee Bourbon Pie	\$6

FRIDAY

Fish Pudding	\$14
Chicken Noodle Soup & Cornbread	\$7
Spaghetti & Rye Bread	\$8
Chocolate Bourbon Cake	\$6

2023 Lenten Preaching Series



WEDNESDAY, FEB. 22*
Ash Wednesday
***No waffle shop**

Mr. Jon Meacham
Pulitzer Prize-winning writer
and historian; Nashville, TN

Mr. Jon Meacham currently holds the Carolyn T. and Robert M. Rogers Chair in the American Presidency at Vanderbilt University and is the Canon Historian at the Washington National Cathedral. The author of multiple bestselling books, Meacham explores the human and sometimes surprisingly intimate sides of pivotal historical events and time periods. His latest book, And There Was Light: Abraham Lincoln and the American Struggle was released in 2022.



FRIDAY, FEB. 24
The Rev. Becca Stevens

Author, Episcopal priest,
founder and president of
Thistle and Bee social
enterprise; Nashville, TN

The Rev. Becca Stevens is a speaker, social entrepreneur, author, priest, founder of ten non-profit justice enterprises, and President of Thistle Farms. She has been featured on multiple news outlets and named a White House Champion of Change. Stevens has raised over \$65M in funding for justice initiatives. She leads important conversations across the country, underscoring her central message that love is the strongest force for change in the world.

THURSDAY, FEB. 23

The Rev. Dan Matthews
Former rector of Trinity Wall
Street, New York



The Rev. Dan Matthews is a consistent favorite at Calvary's Lenten Preaching Series over the last fifty years. His preaching is inspired by powerful and meaningful stories like the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son. In light of these stories, Matthews pushes us to recognize when genuine blessings come our way. He believes that these moments of being "kissed by God" are more than being in the right place at the right time. His spiritual discipline of holy love is modeled after his mother's ability to love with abandon. Each time he receives communion, he is reminded of the transformative power of that love.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1
DIALOG LIVE PODCAST
March 1 at 6:30 p.m.

The Rev. Jennifer Bailey
Ordained A.M.E. minister and
national leader in the multi-faith
movement for justice;
Nashville, TN



The Rev. Jen Bailey is an ordained minister, author, and national leader in the multi-faith movement for justice. She is the founder and executive director of Faith Matters Network. Bailey believes love is "the" animating force that will make the difference between a future of uncertainty and division and one of deep belonging. She is ordained in the African Methodist Episcopal Church.



THURSDAY, MARCH 2
DIALOG LIVE PODCAST
March 1 at 6:30

Dr. Omid Safi
Professor of Asian and Middle
Eastern Studies at Duke
University; Durham, NC

Dr. Omid Safi is a teacher in the Islamic tradition of Radical Love with extensive written work on the foundational sources of Islam and Sufism. Safi, a leading Muslim public intellectual, investigates the intersection of spirituality and social justice. He is also deeply committed to liberationist prophetic traditions manifested in the legacies of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, and Malcolm X. Dr. Safi delivered the keynote address in annual services honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis.

2023 Lenten Preaching Series



FRIDAY, MARCH 3
DIALOG LIVE PODCAST
March 1 at 6:30 p.m.

Rabbi Micah Greenstein
Senior Rabbi at Temple Israel;
Memphis, TN

The senior rabbi at Temple Israel, Micah Greenstein loves Torah no matter where it comes from. "Torah" in a broad Jewish sense refers to the teachings and wisdom of Judaism, but he treasures insights on goodness, love, justice, shalom, and compassion from every faith tradition and every reflection of God's unity. What inspires Greenstein most about the Jewish legacy he lives and teaches is that it is not simply a tale of enduring persecution and surviving hate but a 4,000-year-old joyful embrace of faith, family, and the blessing of being God's partner in healing a broken world. A preacher at the Lenten Preaching Series since 2000, Rabbi Greenstein is an integral part of Calvary's Lenten services.



THURSDAY, MARCH 9
DIALOG LIVE PODCAST
March 8 at 6:30 p.m.

The Rev. Winnie Varghese
Rector at St. Luke's Episcopal;
Atlanta, GA

A national leader in the Episcopal Church, the Rev. Winnie Varghese is known for her inspired writing, teaching, and preaching. Varghese has been a leading voice on issues including mass incarceration; systemic racism; gender, sexuality, and LGBTQ issues; and immigration, among others. She is the 23rd rector of St. Luke's, Atlanta. Prior to St. Luke's, Varghese served at Trinity Church Wall Street, St. Mark's in the Bowery in New York City, and St. Alban's, Los Angeles. She has also served as the Episcopal Chaplain at both Columbia University and the University of California Los Angeles.



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8
DIALOG LIVE PODCAST
March 8 at 6:30 p.m.

Dr. Brian McLaren
Christian author and activist,
faculty member at the Center for
Action and Contemplation;
San Marcos, FL

Dr. Brian D. McLaren started his career as a college English teacher, then became a pastor, and then put the two together to become a spiritual writer. He loves the outdoors (fly fishing especially), music (jazz and folk especially), and reading (novels and poetry especially). He has four adult kids and five amazing grandchildren and will show you photos without your permission. His new book, [Do I Stay Christian?](#) (St. Martins, 2022) is on [Publisher's Weekly's](#) top 20 books of 2022. He and his wife, Grace, just survived Hurricane Ian and can be found walking the beach, pruning trees in their little mango orchard, and watching tortoises cross the road. He looks forward to returning to Calvary and telling the honest truth (as he sees it) about the future of faith.



FRIDAY, MARCH 10
Ms. Dalia Mogahed

Director of Research at the
Institute for Social Policy and
Understanding; Washington, DC

Dalia Mogahed is the director of research at the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding, where she leads the organization's pioneering research and thought leadership programs on American Muslims. With John L. Esposito, she co-authored the book [Who Speaks for Islam? What a Billion Muslims Really Think](#). President Barack Obama appointed Mogahed to the President's Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships in 2009, and she was invited to testify before the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations about U.S. engagement with Muslim communities. Her 2016 TED talk was named one of the top TED talks of that year. Mogahed is a frequent expert commentator in global media outlets and international forums. She is also the CEO of Mogahed Consulting.

2023 Lenten Preaching Series



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15

DIALOG LIVE PODCAST

March 15 at 6:30 p.m.

Father Greg Boyle

Jesuit priest and founder of Homeboy Industries, Los Angeles, CA

Father Greg Boyle is the founder of Homeboy Industries, an intervention program that builds job, life, and relational skills with former gang members. Known for his bestselling book Tattoos on the Heart, Boyle tells stories of shared life that provoke laughter as often as tears. Homeboy Industries has spawned more than 250 partnerships with social enterprises around the globe. Father Boyle travels widely and speaks on the importance of meeting violence with humanity.



FRIDAY, MARCH 17

DIALOG LIVE PODCAST

March 15 at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Pádraig Ó Tuama

Poet, peacemaker, storyteller, Ireland

Pádraig Ó Tuama's interests lie in language, violence, and religion. Having grown up in a place that has a long history of all three (Ireland, yes, but also Europe), he finds that language might be the most redeeming of these. In language, there is the possibility of vulnerability, of surprise, of the creative movement towards something as yet unseen. He is inspired by any artist of words: from Krista Tippett to Lucille Clifton, from Patrick Kavanagh to Emily Dickinson, from Lorna Goodison to Arundhati Roy. Ó Tuama loves words — words that open up the mind, the heart, the life. For instance — poem: a created thing.

THURSDAY, MARCH 16

The Rev. Canon Marianne Wells Borg

Retired Episcopal priest and Director of the Center for Spiritual Development, founder of the Marcus J. Borg Foundation; Portland, OR



The Rev. Canon Marianne Borg was not raised in the church and lived outside the U.S. (and a conventional Christian culture) until she was eight. At age 26, she had a compelling experience reading the Gospels; that interaction began an unsettling and transformational journey into Christianity and its traditions. At age 40, Borg was ordained in the Episcopal Church, which has remained her spiritual home. Her commitment to her faith requires continual rethinking and reimagining of what Christianity is and why it matters. Borg's adult formation has been profoundly shaped by the life and work of her late husband (the scholar Dr. Marcus J. Borg), the South African Bush, the horse, and the work of John D. Caputo.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

DIALOG LIVE PODCAST

March 22 at 6:30 p.m.

The Rev. Barbara Brown Taylor

Episcopal priest, academic, author; Clarkesville, Georgia



The Rev. Barbara Brown Taylor is a New York Times best-selling author, teacher, and Episcopal priest. After serving three congregations—two in downtown Atlanta and one in rural Clarkesville, Georgia—she became the first Butman Professor of Religion and Philosophy at Piedmont College, where she taught until 2017. Since then, she has spoken at events with wonderful names like Wild Goose, Evolving Faith, Awakening Soul, and Gladdening Light, but her favorite gig is being the full-time caretaker of a farm in the foothills of the Appalachians with her husband Ed and very many animals.



THURSDAY, MARCH 23

DIALOG LIVE PODCAST

March 22 at 6:30

Rabbi David Wolpe

Senior Rabbi at Sinai Temple, Los Angeles, CA

Rabbi David Wolpe is the Max Webb Senior Rabbi of Sinai Temple in Los Angeles. Known for his honest engagement with the place of religion in public life, Wolpe explores Torah in fresh and faithful ways. Author of eight books, including the national bestseller Making Loss Matter: Creating Meaning in Difficult Times, Wolpe has been named the most influential Rabbi in America by Newsweek and twice named among the 50 most influential Angelinos by LA Magazine. He has taught at a number of universities, including UCLA, Hunter College, Pepperdine, and the Jewish Theological Seminary, and has written for numerous prominent news outlets. His next adventure will be serving as a visiting scholar at Harvard Divinity School.

2023 Lenten Preaching Series



FRIDAY, MARCH 24

The Rev. Dr. Rosalyn Nichols
Interfaith Officer at Metropolitan
Inter-faith Association (MIFA);
Memphis, TN

The Rev. Dr. Rosalyn Nichols, a native of Memphis, is the organizing pastor of Freedom's Chapel Christian Church (DOC). Following the death of a childhood friend, Dr. Nichols created A More Excellent Way, Inc., an organization with a mission to help individuals from all walks of life to enter into, engage in, and maintain spiritually healthy relationships while eliminating relationship violence. She is a founding member of MICAHA (Memphis Interfaith Coalition for Action and Hope) and serves as Inter-Faith Officer for MIFA (Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association). She has been a visiting professor in Gweru, Zimbabwe, a church planter throughout China, and a Holy Land pilgrim. Nichols's deepest passions are transformational teaching and working with others to seek justice, love, and mercy.



THURSDAY, MARCH 30

DIALOG LIVE PODCAST
March 29 at 6:30 p.m.

Dr. Jemar Tisby
Historian, author, and speaker;
Mississippi Delta, AR

Dr. Jemar Tisby is a professor of history at Simmons College of Kentucky. He is also the author of the New York Times bestselling book The Color of Compromise: The Truth about the Church's Complicity in Racism and How to Fight Racism. Tisby has co-hosted the podcast "Pass the Mic" for all of its seven-year history, and his writing has been featured in multiple national news outlets. Tisby speaks nationwide on the topics of racial justice, U.S. history, and Christianity. He earned his Ph.D. in history, where his research examines race, religion, and social movements in the 20th century.



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29

DIALOG LIVE PODCAST
March 29 at 6:30 p.m.

Ms. Kaitlin Curtice
Writer, poet, and speaker;
Philadelphia, PA

Kaitlin Curtice is an award-winning author, poet-storyteller, and public speaker. As an enrolled citizen of the Potawatomi nation who was raised in the Christian faith, Curtice investigates the intersections of spirituality and identity. She believes truthfully sharing the stories and contradictions of our histories and faith traditions can contribute to communal healing. As an inter-spiritual advocate, Curtice participates in conversations on topics such as colonialism in faith communities. Her forthcoming book, Living Resistance, claims that "resistance is for every human who desires their neighbors' flourishing."



FRIDAY, MARCH 31

The Rev. Sam Teitel
Minister, Church of the River;
Memphis, TN

The Rev. Sam Teitel is a Unitarian Universalist minister, poet, and lapsed punk rocker. He serves as the minister of The Church of the River in Memphis. His favorite parts of scripture are the parts that people usually try to ignore. He loves checking out new restaurants and record stores in Memphis with his wife, Sandra, their son, Gideon, and their Jack Russell Terrier, Tommy.

100 years of Lenten Preaching & Waffle Shop

Researched and written by Jill Piper

Calvary's Noonday Lenten Preaching Series is the longest running seasonal production in Memphis. Fittingly, it began in a theater. Running for five weeks every year since 1923, LPS turns 100 this year.



The Rev. Charles F. Blaisdell served as rector of Calvary from 1920-1939 and presided over the first Lenten Preaching Series.

1930s Building on Tradition

People of various Christian denominations gathered for noonday preaching at Calvary. During the 1930s, a single visiting speaker took the whole week, giving five talks Monday through Friday. All off-site operations—worship in the Lyceum theater and Waffle Shop in Whiskey Chute—returned to 102 N. Second by 1933. Waffles and chicken hash are still on the menu, but curiously, there's little demand for potted rabbit.



The Rev. Dr. Richard Trelease made the first of 27 annual appearances at LPS beginning in 1946.

1920s A Gift to the City

Bustling commerce of this era required expansion of the city of Memphis and its amenities. Recent developments of this time include the University of Memphis, the Memphis Zoo, and the Pink Palace. Calvary modernized too, with a massive reinvention of the Parish House beginning in 1921. During the Parish House construction, many of Calvary's activities took place in a nearby theater. The closest was the Lyceum at 64 N. Second. It was here that the Noonday Lenten Preaching Series began with local clergy and speakers from other towns. Prior to the introduction of radio and television, lecture series were a popular source of education and entertainment in Memphis. Calvary's telephone number in 1923 was #3511. In 1928, the Waffle Shop was added to the preaching series as both a fundraiser and an event in its own right.

1940s Navigating the War Years

Because of the demands on volunteers and resources, American church attendance declined during the Second World War (1941-1945). Calvary, nevertheless, soldiered on with Noonday Lenten Preaching. In Lent 1946, the Rev. Dr. Richard Trelease of St. Paul's, Kansas City, made the first of 27 consecutive appearances at LPS, setting the precedent for other long-timers like Dr. Marcus Borg and the Rev. Dan Matthews. By the late 1940s, LPS observed a 25th anniversary, even as the post-war building boom began to draw families out east. Through most of the 40s, Calvary's rector was the Rev. Theodore Barth, who made it a practice to telephone absent parishioners on Monday morning and tell them they were missed in church.

1950s Righting the Ship

American religious commitment peaked as the country embarked on the period that would become the Baby Boom. In 1957, over 95 percent of Americans associated with some religious tradition. LPS broadened its reach with publicity. The Commercial Appeal announced the speakers in the news section, and parishioners received a Calvary Bulletin in the mail. The Bulletin featured a cartoon on the front page, general Episcopal news on pages 2 and 3, and short biographies of each speaker on the back page. In 1957, Calvary began to distribute a pocket-size leaflet about Noonday Lenten Services with purple print.



A pocket-size Lent leaflet

1970s A Fresh Set of Eyes

When the Rev. Douglass Bailey arrived in 1978, he found a downtown parish with significant challenges. He made revitalizing LPS a priority and drew on his wide circle of clergy friends in other cities to beef up the program. At Doug's invitation, Memphians were introduced to the Rev. Herb O'Driscoll (a master storyteller), Will Campbell, the Rev. William Sloane Coffin (an anti-war activist), Bishop John Shelby Spong (who pushed for inclusion for women and LGBTQ people in Episcopal church leadership), the Rev. Dr. Johnny Ray Youngblood, and the Rev. Bernice King, (daughter of MLK). Memphis preachers Maxie Dunnam of Christ Methodist Church and the Rev. Henry Strock of Idlewild Presbyterian became regulars. For the first time, visitors who attended LPS were given reserved seating at Waffle Shop.



Ann B. Davis, who played "Alice" on The Brady Bunch, spoke at LPS in 1980.

1960s Middle-Age Doldrums

With Noonday Preaching now in its 40s, signs of midlife crept in. A fairly rote and predictable slate of preachers stuck to mainstream Christian material, a longtime parishioner reported. Standard fare such as resisting temptation, the importance of weekly attendance, and the formation of good habits were the meat and potatoes of Lenten preaching. Outside the church, Memphis was ablaze with urban crises, the civil rights movement, the war in Vietnam, and the changing roles of women. Meanwhile, at Waffle Shop, the "Men's Table" persisted into the '70s.

1980s Bring on the Personalities

Surely one of the most unexpected persons in Calvary's pulpit was Ann B. Davis, who played "Alice" on The Brady Bunch. She spoke at LPS in 1980. After the Brady Bunch ended in 1974, she lived and worked the rest of her life in an Episcopal seminary in San Antonio. The 1980s would also bring clergy from as far away as Aberdeen, Scotland (the Rev. John Birkbeck) and as nearby as Mississippi Boulevard (Dr. Alvin O. Jackson). Calvary began recording the speakers and making their talks available on cassette tape. Parking in the nearby Jefferson Garage was \$1.

1990s Standing Room Only

As LPS strode toward its 75th anniversary in 1998, annual visits by the Rev. Dan Matthews and Dr. Marcus Borg would define the '90s. Matthews (who noted in 2021 that Calvary is one of only a handful of lecture series to operate for 100 continuous years in a downtown church) was the rector of Trinity Church on Wall Street at the time of the September 11 attacks in 2001. Borg, a theologian, author, and teacher from Portland, Oregon, formed a deep bond with Calvary while challenging many with his ideas about the historical Jesus.



Rabbi Micah Greenstein has preached every year at LPS since 2000.

2010s Celebrating New Voices

In a goth anniversary story that ran in 2013, Commercial Appeal columnist David Waters noted “a shift away from white, male, retired Epsicopal clergy to include female, minority and non-Christian speakers.” The schedule of messengers became more diverse than ever, and experimental styles of delivery emerged. We had preaching while singing, preaching while barefoot, preaching through acting, and preaching on a barstool. We began to film and post Lenten speakers online. The Rev. Nadia-Bolz Weber's 10-minute talk about Mary from 2013 has more than 62,000 views on YouTube, more than any single Lenten speaker to date. Calvary's channel on YouTube offers more than 1,700 videos produced in-house. LPS went from five to four days a week in 2015 to reflect changing patterns in attendance and availability of volunteers.

2000s Expanding the Footprint

The new century brought an era of non-clergy guests and speakers, like storyteller Megan McKenna and television actor Frank Runyeon, who dramatized the Sermon on the Mount. Lord George Carey, recently retired Archbishop of Canterbury, had an informal chat during which he disclosed what Prince Charles (now King Charles III) and Camilla are really like. He called them, “very down-to-earth.” Yasir Qadhi, resident scholar at the Memphis Islamic Center, was the first Muslim cleric to address LPS in 2011. In the 2000s, we began experimenting with Waffle Shop After Dark. These events gave parishioners who worked during the day a chance to hear the speakers live on Wednesday nights. Rabbi Micah Greenstein of Temple Israel in Memphis gave his first LPS sermon in 2000 and has continued every year since.



The Rev. Nadia Bolz Webber preached at LPS in 2013.



Live podcasts on Wednesday nights, featuring conversations with daytime speakers, offered something for LPS followers on Facebook Live and YouTube as well as those who attended in person.

2020s A World of Work-Arounds

After only nine days of live preaching, the Covid-19 pandemic brought LPS to a standstill on March 12, 2020. Not to be deterred, clergy pivoted to learn remote podcasting, and we finished the 2020 season by interviewing folks from our homes, including author Kaitlin Curtice, newspaper columnist David Waters, and historian Jemar Tisby. For 2021, although vaccines had just become available in the winter, caution dictated a mostly remote season offered on Wednesdays and Fridays with pre-recorded sermons. Live podcasts on Wednesday nights, featuring poet Pádraig Ó Tuama, mystic Rabbi Rami Shapiro, and saxophonist-preacher the Rev. Kirk Whalum, offered something for LPS followers on Facebook Live and YouTube. The conversational podcast format opened the door for unscripted conversations alongside the more formal noon sermons. Podcasts also allowed listeners to tune in on their own schedules in any location. With Covid infections steadily retreating, the 2022 series returned cautiously with three days a week and attendance started to look more like pre-pandemic years.

Future

True for the Next Hundred Years

Theologian Phyllis Tickle expressed the enduring appeal of LPS in a newspaper interview in 2013: "Those who come to speak, like those who come to hear, are not all Christians...But every Lent, Calvary becomes, almost magically, a safe place, a place where men and women of faith can worship together without censure or uneasiness about their differences, a place where the abiding goodness of God rests briefly upon all because all who come are there seeking it."



Theologian Phyllis Tickle

Prayer List

Wedding Bells

Mary Milton Kelly & Robert Thuston, 12/30/22

New Life

Adelaide Jane Beasley, daughter of Ainsley & Battle Beasley

Halford Lewis Hammond, son of Olivia & Mike Hammond

Saints Departed

Chris Almeini, relative of Scott Trotter

Vincent Astor

William Dean Banks II, husband of Robyn Banks

Barbara Berlyak, friend of Ruthie & Paul McLain

Donna Beth Berry, friend of Ruthie & Paul McLain

Peggy Bringle, sister of Pat Morgan

Dolores "Dodie" Cheairs

Wayne Diffenderfer, relative of Robyn Banks

Betty Jo H. Dulaney, mother of Betty Jo Dulaney

Ellen Fortas, friend of Audrey & Gary Hager

Bill Gabbart, brother of Jim Gabbart

Mary Griffith, aunt of Dee Wallace

Hank Haney, husband of Shannon Curtis

Kay Henson, cousin of Paige Whittle

Patsy Ann Howard, sister of Richard McFadden

Emily Phipps Johnson, daughter-in-law of Jeannie & Don Johnson

Peter Koury, father of Joseph Koury

Tyre Nichols

The Rev. Dr. Thomas Ogletree, friend of Paul McLain

Jerry Phillians, uncle of John Phillians

Martha Raman, mother of the Rev. Neil Raman

Stella Connell Salmon, mother of Terre Sullivant

Kathryn Skinner

Billie Trott, mother of Andrew Trott

Mary Stafford Truitt, mother of Kelly Truitt

Roger Wolcott, husband of Margery Wolcott

Don Wood, uncle of Sharon Bailey

Father of all, we pray to you for all those whom we love but see no longer. Grant to them eternal rest. Let light perpetual shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen,





CHRONICLE

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Robyn M. Banks, editor

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Calvary Episcopal Church making God's love visible in downtown Memphis



learn more at
calvarymemphis.org/lent

IT'S TIME FOR LENTEN PREACHING

*Wednesdays, Thursdays,
and Fridays
at 12:05 p.m.*

**LIVE PODCAST RECORDING:
WEDNESDAYS AT 6:15 P.M.**

AND WAFFLE SHOP

*Wednesdays,
Thursdays,
and Fridays
11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.*

